



Our Sustainability Report

Summary

The Noosa Festival of Surfing has always been about more than surfing. It's about the place, the waves, and the community that shows up every year to celebrate them. This report is our commitment to understanding the environmental impact of that gathering, and to making it better every year.

This is the most comprehensive sustainability assessment the Festival has undertaken to date. Covering 13 to 22 March 2026, it measures emissions across every major source: attendee travel, Festival expenditure, exhibitors, waste, electricity, fuel, and water. All 512.02 tonnes of CO₂e have been fully offset, making the 2026 Festival carbon neutral.



512.02

Total Emissions (tCO₂e)



100%

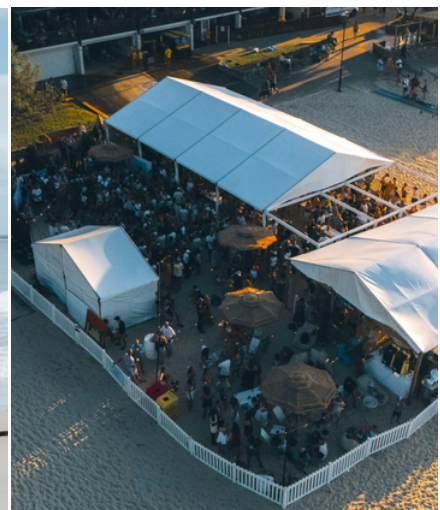
Carbon Neutral



67%

of Total from Transport

Getting 35,000+ people to a beachside town in Queensland is the Festival's biggest environmental challenge. Transport accounts for 67% of our total footprint, a reality that comes with being a destination event that people genuinely travel for. Festival expenditure adds a further 25%. Together, these two categories drive 92% of all emissions. The remaining 8% spans exhibitors, waste, electricity, fuel, and water. Each is individually small but collectively reflects the full operational picture of a world-class coastal event.



A message from our team

“At the Noosa Festival of Surfing, our mission is to celebrate surfing as a lifestyle, culture, and community event, all while protecting the natural environment that makes it possible. We are committed to responsible environmental and social practices that ensure a sustainable future for the Festival, the Noosa community, and the broader surfing culture.

Held over 10 days at First Point, Main Beach and Sunrise Beach, the Festival is managed by World Surfing Events and Event Generals on behalf of the Noosa Malibu Club. It attracts over 400 competitors and thousands of visitors annually, taking place within the Noosa Biosphere Reserve and Noosa World Surfing Reserve, areas of deep cultural and environmental significance to the Kabi Kabi peoples.

Our sustainability commitments focus on key areas: reducing single-use plastics, improving waste diversion systems, offsetting emissions, and supporting local conservation efforts. Each year, we continue to measure and manage our environmental impact across energy, water, and waste, while aligning with the sustainability principles of Stewardship, Inclusivity, Integrity, and Transparency.”



John Finlay - Event Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Finlay', positioned below the printed name.

We acknowledge the Kabi Kabi (Gubbi Gubbi) people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and sea where the Noosa Festival of Surfing is held. We honour their ongoing connection to this place; its surf breaks, waterways, forests, and skies. We pay respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

Contents

1	Introduction	05
	The Festival	05
	This Report	05
2	Our Footprint	06
	Footprint	07
	Breakdown	08
	Exhibitors	09
3	Our Pathway	10
	Carbon Reduction	11
	Carbon Removal	12
4	Our Partners	13
	Sustainability Partners	14
	Electric Transportation	15
	Plastic Free Noosa	16
	Noosa Biosphere	17

Introduction

The Festival


The Noosa Festival of Surfing is one of the largest and most celebrated surfing festivals in the world, held annually across the shores of Noosa Heads, Queensland. Managed by World Surfariis and Event Generals, the Festival has grown over more than three decades into a cultural institution, bringing together world-class surfers, artists, musicians, and ocean lovers in one of Australia's most iconic coastal environments.

The Festival is committed to honouring the place it calls home. In partnership with the Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation, a UNESCO-recognised organisation dedicated to sustainable living and environmental stewardship, NFOS is actively working to reduce its environmental footprint and demonstrate that world-class events and responsible practice can go hand in hand.

This report

This report presents the Noosa Festival of Surfing 2026 sustainability assessment, covering the event period 13 - 22 March 2026. It provides a transparent view of the Festival's greenhouse gas emissions profile across operations, attendee travel, and procurement activity, alongside waste generation across all event venues. The inventory is prepared in alignment with the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard framework, applying a spend-based methodology for Scope 3 emissions and activity-based calculations for travel and waste and utilities. Results are presented in tonnes CO₂-e.

Locations

 Main Beach, Noosa Heads QLD 4567



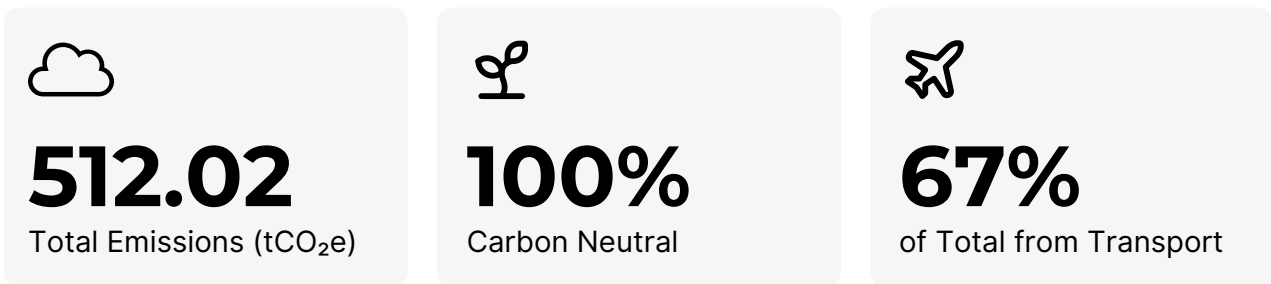
02

Our Footprint

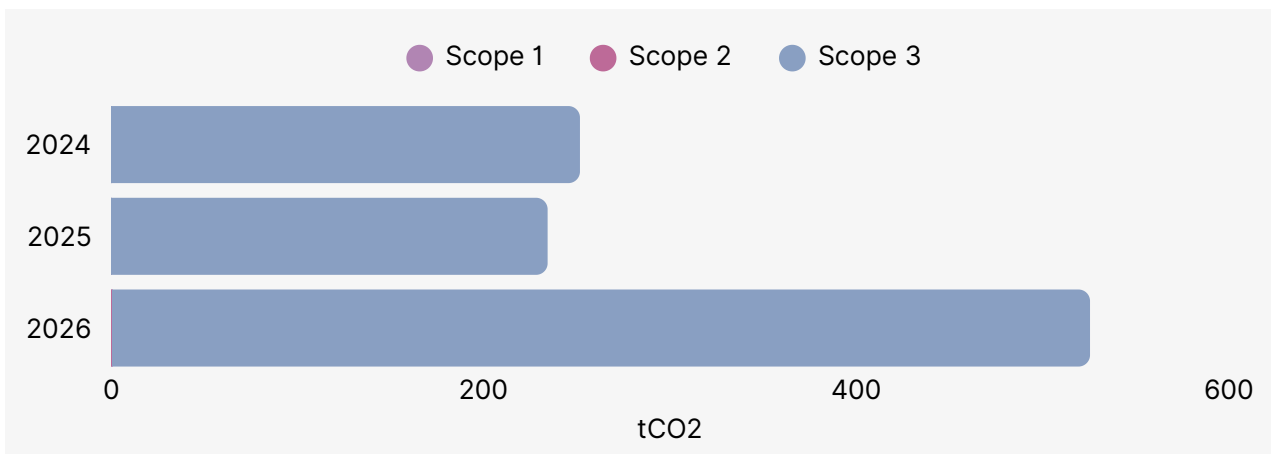
Carbon Footprint

Overview

Noosa Festival of Surfing's total 2026 footprint is 512.02 tCO₂e. Transport dominates at 67% (343.39 tCO₂e), driven by attendee and participant travel to Noosa, with event expenditure contributing a further 25% (127.47 tCO₂e).



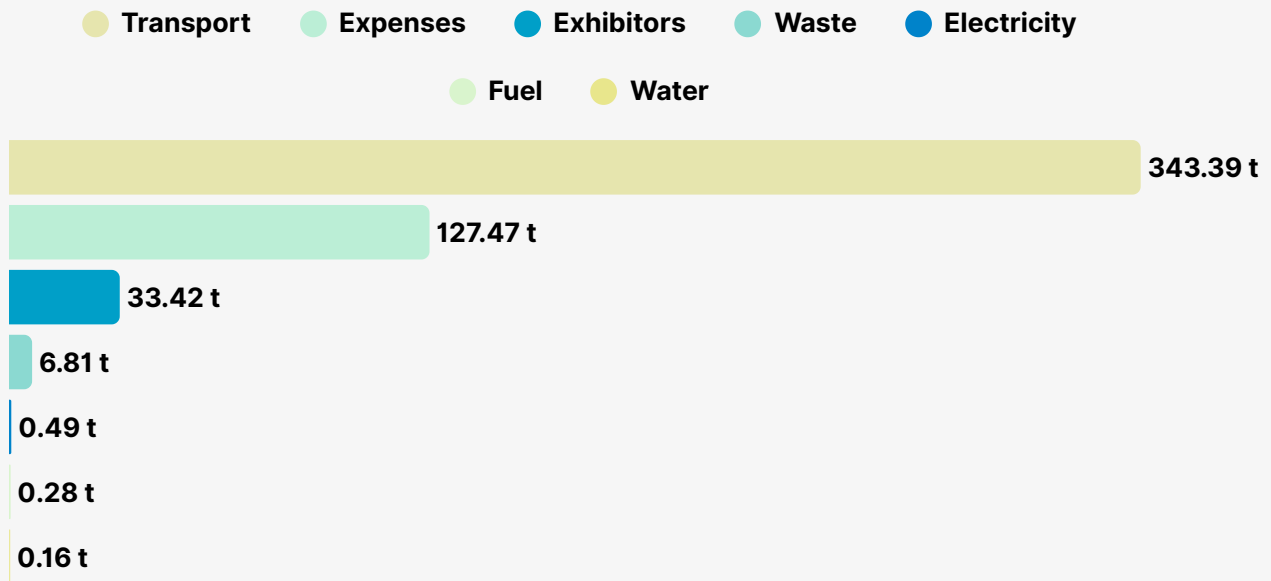
Footprint by Scope



The 2026 increase reflects an expanded measurement boundary capturing more emission sources than prior years, not a real-terms rise in Festival emissions.

Scope	Description	tCO ₂ e	Share
Scope 1	Direct emissions from owned/controlled sources (combustion, vehicles, refrigerants)	0.22	0.0%
Scope 2	Indirect emissions from purchased energy (electricity, heat)	0.41	0.1%
Scope 3	All other indirect emissions in the value chain	511.39	99.9%

Breakdown



Transport dominates the footprint at 67%, reflecting the travel intensity of a destination event drawing attendees to Noosa from across Australia and beyond. Festival expenditure contributes a further 25%, meaning these two categories alone account for 92% of total emissions. All remaining categories, including exhibitors, waste, electricity, fuel, and water, are individually immaterial, each contributing less than 7% of the total.

Category	tCO ₂ e	Share
Transport	343.39	67.1%
Expenses	127.47	24.9%
Exhibitors	33.42	6.5%
Waste	6.81	1.3%
Electricity	0.49	0.1%
Fuel	0.28	0.1%
Water	0.16	0.0%
Total	512.02	100%

Exhibitors

These Exhibitors measured their carbon emissions for their attendance at the Festival and emission were offset as part of the carbon neutral claim.



Ampd Bros



AG1



Brixton



BYD



FTN Motion



HydroFlask



Sun Bum



HydroFlask

Across the nine-day Noosa Festival, Hydro Flask hydration stations were placed at peak foot traffic from First Point to the Beach Bar making refill easy, visible, and part of the flow of the event. Compared to last year, Noosa Festival saw a **+50%** increase in refill behaviour and plastic reduction.

11,306 Bottles

Total single-use bottles saved

16,959 Litres

Total water consumed

7,349 Kg Co2-e

Total carbon savings

1,413 Kg

Total oil saved

03

Our Reduction Pathway

13 - 22 March 2026

 Salvidia

Carbon Reduction

Completed Action

✓ 2026 **Expanded measurement:** most comprehensive inventory to date

✓ 2026 **Exhibitor engagement:** 7 exhibitors measured and offset

✓ 2026 **Biosphere Morning Sessions:** 3 sessions run with NBRF

✓ 2026 **Surfrider beach clean-up:** community action during the festival

✓ 2026 **Better Cups at Beach Bar:** reusable cups, reducing biocup reliance

✓ 2026 **Simply Cups trial:** coffee cup recycling pilot

✓ 2026 **10c container refund:** donated to Noosa World Surfing Reserve

Planned Action

🕒 2027 **Attendee Offset at Checkout:** offset option on ticket form

🕒 2027 **Scale Better Cups:** staff dishwasher, improved bin signage, reduce biocup overflow

🕒 2027 **Scale Simply Cups:** increase awareness across more touchpoints

🕒 2027 **Expand EV presence:** partner involvement and EV bike parking

🕒 2027 **Exhibitor and partner engagement:** measure and offset all exhibitors

🕒 2027 **Waste Management:** Increase recycling rates / Better Cups recovery

Carbon Removal

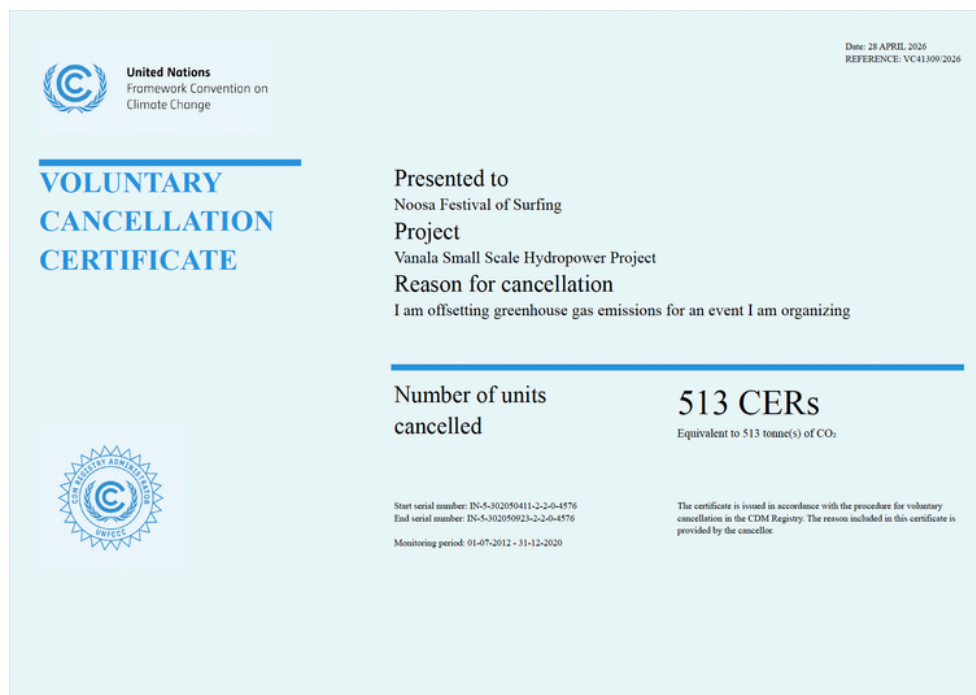
Percent of Emissions Offset

100%

Our Projects

Hydropower Project in India

The Vanala Small Scale Hydropower Project is a 15 MW run-of-the-river hydroelectric facility on the Nandakini River in Chamoli district, Uttarakhand, India. The project displaces fossil-fuel-based grid electricity through renewable generation, with co-benefits spanning local employment, regional infrastructure development, and avoided submergence of forest and cultivated land.



04

Our Partners

13 - 22 March 2026

 Salvidia

Sustainability Partners



Empowering local businesses, events and the public to practice going plastic free



Proactively identify, designate and preserve outstanding waves, surf zones and environments.

10c Refund: 7,625 units were recycled, raising \$762.50 for Noosa World Surfing Reserve



Australia's leading total waste management solutions provider that have served Australia for over 50 years!



Surfers for Climate is an Australian charity dedicated to turning the tide on climate change



The Noosa Biosphere Reserve is a unique place where people strive to live in harmony with nature, where the delicate balance between humanity and the environment is celebrated and carefully managed.



Wipe out Waste with Smart Ass and the boys from Swag on the Beat



Salvidia is a carbon intelligence platform designed to help events like the Noosa Festival of Surfing measure emissions, plans to offset it and turn insights into action.



Grassroots ocean conservation network protecting waves, beaches and coastlines, joining NFOS for a community beach clean-up across the festival.

Electric Transportation

Transport is the Festival's largest source of emissions, making cleaner transport a key focus area. These partners represent the shift towards zero-emission mobility, from electric bikes to motorcycles to passenger vehicles.



Hand-built electric motorcycles designed for the coast and the commute. The Streetdog blends cafe-racer style with zero-emission riding, bringing clean transport to Australian surf towns.



Australia's original fat-tyre electric bike brand, family-owned and Gold Coast designed. Built for sandy shortcuts, board racks and coastal living, helping riders skip the car park and roll straight to the sand.



The world's largest electric vehicle maker, proving that zero-emission driving is ready to scale. BYD brought their latest EV fleet to the Festival, showcasing the future of clean transport on Australian roads.

Principal Sustainability Partners



176

Business Members



190,557 kg

Plastic avoided (since FY 18/19)



162,788

Plastic water bottles eliminated (since FY 18/19)

The Mission

Plastic Free Noosa is a community program and initiative of Tourism Noosa, proudly supported by Noosa Council. Launched in 2018 as the pilot for the Boomerang Alliance's national Plastic Free Places program, it was the first of its kind in Australia, and its success has since seen the model expand to communities across the country. Noosa is leading the charge to become Australia's first completely plastic-free community.

The program works hands-on with local businesses, residents, and visitors to eliminate single-use plastics from everyday life, with 176 business members and over 12 million single-use plastics removed from circulation since launch. As a sustainability partner of the Noosa Festival of Surfing, Plastic Free Noosa brings deep community roots and proven environmental action to the event, ensuring the Festival's waste and plastic commitments reflect the values of the place it calls home.





2007

UNESCO designation,
first in Queensland



150,000 ha

Protected area across
Noosa Shire



1 of 5

Biosphere Reserves in
Australia

The Mission

The Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation (NBRF) is a not-for-profit organisation established by Noosa Council to steward one of Australia's most significant natural environments. Formally designated by UNESCO in 2007, Noosa was the first biosphere reserve in Queensland, one of only five across Australia and part of a global network of over 700 sites in 130+ countries.

The Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation hosted three free morning sessions at the Beach Bar during the festival, each exploring a different theme of Noosa's blue biosphere.

Monday 16 March: Culture & Connection Talks and a panel exploring the relationship between surf culture and biosphere reserves, from global significance to local songlines. Featured Prof Ian Lowe AO, Noosa Councillor and shaper Tom Wegener, and First Nations storytelling with Beverly Hand.

Tuesday 17 March: Youth & our Blue Biosphere Interactive sessions designed for young conservationists, covering turtle protection, Shark Smart drone technology with SLSQ and QLD Department of Primary Industries, and a Precious Plastics showcase from Plastic Free Noosa.

Thursday 19 March: Marine Research A deep dive into UniSC's research program on iconic marine species in the biosphere, including bull shark ecology with Dr Bonnie Holmes, dolphin ecology with Dr Alexis, and a closing panel with Prof Ian Lowe AO.



**NOOSA
FESTIVAL
OF
SURFING**

Thank you!